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PAUL REVERE

The famous profound contribution to the cause of American liberty which was made in spreading the alarm "through every Middlesex village and farm, for the country folk to be up and to arm" has tended to obscure the many talents of the fervent colonial patriot, Paul Revere. A recently published and excellent biography by Esther Forbes has brought to light many interesting and hitherto unknown phases of a life generously spent in humanity's progress.

Revere was the third son of Apollus Rivoire, the surname later having been Anglicized for purposes of easier pronunciation. After attending grammar school, the youth became apprenticed to a goldsmith. He possessed an aptitude for mechanics, a skill in designing, a love of industrial arts.

It is not generally known that Revere practiced the rudiments of dentistry while still following the trade of a silver and goldsmith. The following item appeared in the *Boston Gazette and Country Journal* in 1770:

Paul Revere,

Takes this Method of returning his most Sincere Thanks to the Gentlemen and Ladies who have employed him in the care of their Teeth he would now inform them and all others, who are so unfortunate as to lose their Teeth by accident or otherways, that he still continues

the Business of a Dentist and flatters himself that from the Experience he has had these Two Years (in which Time he has fixt some Hundreds of Teeth) that he can fix them as well as any Surgeon-Dentist who ever came from London, he fixes them in such a Manner that they are not only an Ornament, but of real Use in Speaking and Eating: He cleanses the Teeth and will wait on any Gentleman or Lady at their Lodgings, he may be spoke with at his Shop opposite Dr. Clark's at the North End, where the Gold and Silversmith's Business is carried on in all its Branches.

It is of historical interest that Revere aided in identifying the body of General (Dr.) Joseph Warren when it was removed from its resting place at Bunker Hill after the evacuation of Boston by the enemy. General William H. Sumner wrote, "If stronger evidence of its identity were wanting, that afforded by Col. Revere, who set the artificial tooth, and who recollected the wire he used in fastening it in, would afford it."

On May 10, 1818, the masterpiece of his casting, the bell in King's Chapel tower, tolled "the passing bell" for his death: for his sex—three strokes; and for his age—eight strokes, then three. —*The Apollonian*, Vol. XVIII, No. 1.